

IN HONOR OF GREEK
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, as we read daily about the difficult fight for freedom that our armed forces are undertaking around the world, let us consider the similarly difficult mission that the people of Greece fought 181 years ago.

On March 25, 1821, Greek citizens, who were at that time living under the oppressive tyranny of the Ottoman Empire, united together to rise up and courageously fight an overwhelming enemy. Though they were many times outnumbered on the battlefield, they endured and ultimately defeated the Ottomans because of the values for which they fought, namely independence and freedom. More powerful than the weapons of the Ottomans, these values provided the inspiration to fight with conviction and purpose.

Today, the United States of America and Greece unite together in a stand against the forces of terrorism. Though this time the numbers of those fighting are to our advantage, our enemy is extremely deceptive, unpredictable, and willing to attack innocent people.

The noble War of Independence that the Greeks fought reminds us today that freedom and independence do not come without cost. We call upon these righteous values held by Greeks and Americans alike to endure these difficult times. Just as Greece defeated its enemy and gained sovereignty, we will defeat our enemy and preserve our freedom.

I stand today to reaffirm our solidarity with Greece and to celebrate their Independence Day from which we can draw much inspiration during our own time of war.

ON THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE DAILY CARDINAL

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to the oldest student newspaper on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus, The Daily Cardinal, on its 110th anniversary on April 4. The Daily Cardinal is a steady and celebrated component of campus life—as vital a presence as the Union Terrace, Camp Randall, or Bascom Hall.

For more than a century, The Daily Cardinal has informed students, faculty, and staff on the UW-Madison campus. Through the years, the paper's staff has met serious challenges with courage and determination while maintaining standards of journalistic excellence.

The success of The Daily Cardinal must be attributed to its hardworking staff members, past and present, who juggle their roles as students and journalists or businesspeople, often with little or no recognition. The enduring success of The Daily Cardinal is most certainly due to their dedication and hard work.

It's truly an honor for me to represent the students, faculty, and staff of the UW-Madison

and especially those who sustain its award-winning student paper, The Daily Cardinal.

THE MEDICAL COST DEDUCTION
ACT OF 2002

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my friend and colleague Mr. Johnson of Texas to introduce the Medical Cost Deduction Act of 2002. This legislation makes health care more affordable by allowing individuals to deduct most of their medical expenditures that exceed 2 percent of their Adjusted Gross Income (AGI).

The rising costs of health care are a major concern for many Americans. Whether it is increased costs in health insurance premiums or the high cost of prescription drugs that seniors pay out of their own pocket, if it is unaffordable, many of these individuals will go without necessary health care treatment. The Medical Cost Deduction Act will help lower the tax burden and help families defray the rising costs of health care.

Since 1942, taxpayers that itemize have been able to deduct health care costs that are in excess of a statutory percentage of their AGI. The current threshold where deductions begin is after 7.5 percent of AGI. Because of this relatively high floor, few taxpayers that itemize can reduce their taxable income through the existing deduction because their unreimbursed medical expenses are unlikely to exceed 7.5 percent of their AGI. For instance, under current law, a taxpayer with an income of \$30,000 would need to have out-of-pocket health care costs of \$2,250 before they could begin taking deductions. Under my proposal that reduces the AGI requirement to 2 percent, that same taxpayer can start taking medical care deductions after \$600 in expenses.

Back in 1954 when the threshold for deductibility of health expenses was lowered from 5 percent to 3 percent, the House Ways and Means Committee included in its report that there is a "general agreement that limiting the deduction only to expenses in excess of 5 percent of AGI does not allow the deduction of all extraordinary medical expenses." By lowering the deduction for medical expenses to 2 percent of AGI seniors may be able to better afford necessary medications and individuals may be better able to afford increased health care premiums. Mr. Speaker, I ask for my colleagues for their consideration and support of the Medical Costs Deduction Act.

CANADA LOVES NEW YORK

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, as we passed the six month mark since September 11th, I was reminded of one of the more exuberant showings of support from one of our nation's strongest allies. Our good neighbor to the north, Canada.

On September 11, 2001, Canadians shared the pain brought on by the events of that morning. Many Canadians wondered what they could do. Our good friend, Canadian Senator Jerry Grafstein, Co-Chair of our U.S.-Canada Interparliamentary Group, was one of the first to contact me to express his condolences and to commiserate. He, like everyone, wanted to know what he could do to help.

Then, following Mayor Giuliani's speech at the United Nations where he invited the world to come to New York to help get things back to normal, Jerry and many of his friends decided that the best thing they could do would be to organize a weekend for Canadians to visit New York en masse, contribute to the economy of New York, and physically show their support.

Almost immediately, Jerry, his wife Carole, and a handful of outstanding volunteers from the Toronto area went to work.

Publishers of the leading newspapers in Toronto ran full-page ads. TV and radio quickly followed suit. Canadian stars in sports and entertainment rallied to create several ads in support of the venture, each taping 30–60 second spots at no cost. Even movie theater owners offered to run the ads when the Harry Potter movie opened in cinemas across Canada.

Other businesses made in-kind and monetary donations to the effort including Air Canada, who made discount air fares to New York available from across Canada.

New Yorkers also made generous donations to the effort. The Roseland Ballroom was made available at a very nominal rate and venue insurance was donated. Owners of the large screens in Times Square offered to run the ads for free to attract the thousands of Canadians living in New York to the event. Mayor Giuliani issued a proclamation declaring December 1, 2001, "Canada Loves New York Day" in New York City. President Bush also sent a message commending the volunteers for their efforts.

It was thought that three to four thousand Canadians would attend the rally on December 1st. It is estimated that over 26,000 people actually did attend. Many of them didn't even get near the Roseland Ballroom, but no one complained. It was a tremendous event—one that I will not soon forget.

So, Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to thank Senator Grafstein and all of the volunteers who worked tirelessly to make that effort a tremendous success. It is another in a long list of reasons as to why the United States and Canada are the closest of allies.

TRIBUTE TO MONMOUTH COUNTY
FOODBANK

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to the FoodBank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties in the 6th District of New Jersey.

On Friday, February 22, the FoodBank formally celebrated the opening of its new 42,000 square feet warehouse facility at 3300 Route 66, Neptune Township. Member charities and invited guests toured the new facility. A dedication ceremony honored Arthur M. Goldberg,